2nd Assistant Collector's Office,
Surat Castle, September 10th, 1868.

MEMORANDUM.

With reference to the Collector's query respecting the value of the City Survey Sunnuds, both as a security to the parties and a protection to the public for the future, the undersigned would beg to remark that as little more than a year has elapsed since the issue of these sunnuds commenced, there has not been time for their value to become practically manifest.

But it is quite clear that a document granted by the first authority in a zilla showing that, on a certain date, a particular person was ostensible owner and in actual possession of a piece of land specified as to size and position beyond the possibility of mistake, must be a very valuable security both to the parties and to the public. Its light will enable the Municipal authorities to detect at once any encroachment on the road or other public land. The chief cause of boundary disputes between private parties is the absence of distinct and unimpeachable evidence as to the size and position of holdings, owing to the absurdly loose way in which native title deeds are worded, and this also constitute the chief difficulty in deciding such disputes when they come before the Courts of Law. The undersigned, since he has had charge of this office, has spent an immense deal of time to no purpose in trying to discover what pieces of land many of the documents, Persian and Gujrati, daily produced before him, are intended to describe.

It is evident that the issue of sunnuds which remove all room for doubt as to the actual boundaries at a certain fixed date will very materially assist justice and lessen litigation.

In proof that the value of these sunnuds is, even so early as this, not unappreciated by the people, witness the disputes constantly arising and eagerly followed up to decision as to whose name shall be recorded in the sunnud, and the fact that when property is entered in the names of several joint sharers, all of them sometimes apply to pay the fees and receive duplicate sunnuds. Another noticeable fact is that mortgagees who from loss of title deeds or other cause are dissatisfied with their security sometimes apply for leave to pay the fee and take out a sunnud in the owner's name.

The undersigned believes that these considerations will show sufficiently clearly that the survey sunnuds are most valuable documents in themselves, and that their value is being quickly understood and appreciated by the people.

(Signed) A. D. CAREY,
2nd Assistant Collector.

This should be printed for circulation, and with it may be printed the memorandum of the Collector of Ahmedabad (Mr. Hope), dated June 3rd, 1863, showing the necessity for, and nature of, the survey then proposed for the City of Ahmedabad.

B. H. ELLIS.

11*th September* 1868.

No. 2048 OF 1868.

To

A. D. CAREY, ESQ.,

Enquiry Officer.

Camp Jehangirpoora, 14*th November* 1868.

SIR,

I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to insert in all future ruza-chitees a proviso that they will be null and void at the expiration of eighteen months from the date they bear, and must be renewed before any building not commenced within that period can be proceeded with.

T. C. HOPE.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 10*th February* 1869.

His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council having notified that Bombay Act IV. of 1868 shall take effect within the municipal limits of the cities of Surat and Broach and the town of Balsar, notice is hereby given as follows:—

1*st*.—The rules for assessment sanctioned for the city of Surat by Government Resolution No. 862, of February 28th, 1867, and applied to the city of Broach by Government Resolution No. 2234, of June 10th, 1867, and to the town of Balsar by Government Resolution No. 1696, of April 29th, 1868, are hereby prescribed as the rules according to which assessment shall be imposed under Section III. of the above mentioned Act.

2*nd*.—The survey of the city of Surat, which was completed in or about the year 1821, is recognised by Government for the purposes of Article 1, Clause 1, Section V. of the above mentioned Act.